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Subj - Health
General

House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
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Honorable John E. Fogarty, M. C.
200 Custom House Building
Providence, Rhode Island

Dear Mr. Fogarty:

Enclosed is material which the Public Health Service has submitted to me for possible use in connection with your Friday television broadcast.

As usual, the written material is not quite as exciting as the verbal reports I have heard concerning at least a couple of these projects. As I mentioned to you when I was in Providence a few weeks ago, the CDC in Atlanta has progressed far enough with the live polio vaccine that some of the doctors have vaccinated themselves with it.

The report on the possibility of a vaccine for tuberculosis likewise is not nearly as optimistic as were the doctors at the Rocky Mountain Laboratory in Hamilton, Montana, who talked with me about their progress. They very definitely feel that there is only a matter of time now since they have been successful in breaking down the causative agent and can now begin testing for the portions which will create immunity without having such drastic side effects that it would be impractical for a vaccine.

In connection with the experiment in rats which Jack Fletcher mentions in his cover note to me, I would guess that it has not panned out quite as well as they first expected or else the censorship is on a little stronger than usual. Dr. ~~Max~~ Haas told me several weeks ago that for the first time, they had been successful in creating in rats a human cancer which would continue to grow in its new environment. This in itself, Dr. Haas seemed to think, was a rather revolutionary advance since they can now try experiments that would obviously be impossible with human subjects. He also was enthusiastic about their progress in treating these cancers with viruses.

One other thing that you might want to use. When I was out at the Rocky Mountain Laboratory, I asked about the possibility of developing a vaccine for encephalitis. I was told that there is a vaccine now available for ~~horses~~ horses which is rather crude but has been also used on humans. The doctors said that they ~~was~~ did not think there would be any great difficulty in developing a vaccine for the Eastern and Western types that would be suitable for human use, but that the demand was so spotty that commercial labs were not interested. There is of course no reason why the Public Health Service could not produce and stockpile such vaccines. This assumption was concurred in by the doctors both there and here in Washington, but no one seemed very enthusiastic about it. ^

I will be in the office all day Thursday, so if you would like me to run down any more details, please call me.

Respectfully yours,



Robert M. Moyer
Staff Assistant

You likely recall that this was done with yellow fever vaccine and it would not be setting any precedent if the Committee should decide this is worth doing.